

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 18234

FOR HUMMEL, EA, AND IRVING, OES, FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, JA
SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY

REF: (A) STATE 299051, (B) STATE 295621

1. I AM NOT SURPRISED AT INFORMATION IMPARTED TO USG OFFICIALS BY MR. OTSUKA, SINCE REACTIONS IN SAME VEIN TO NEW U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY HAVE BEEN HEARD HERE REPEATEDLY, MOST RECENTLY WHEN OKAWA, DG OF UN BUREAU, MOFA, RAISED SUBJECT WITH DCM ON 12/6. ALSO, EMBASSY REPORTING FULLY SUBSTANTIATES GROWING UNEASINESS BY GOJ OVER SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF U.S./JAPAN NUCLEAR RELATIONS AS DESCRIBED BY OTSUKA.

2. ONE REASON FOR GOJ CONCERNS OBVIOUSLY LIES IN INABILITY OF USG OFFICIALS TO RESPOND TO REPEATED QUERIES ABOUT NEW NUCLEAR POLICY IN SUBSTANTIVE FASHION, AND TO PERHAPS THEREBY ASSURE JAPANESE THAT THEY ARE NOT BEING LUMPED TOGETHER WITH ALL OTHER POTENTIAL PROLIFERATORS. WHILE I UNDERSTAND THAT USG IS NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE COMMITMENTS OR TO ESTABLISH PRECEDENTS IN THIS TRANSITION PERIOD, I BELIEVE THAT A CONSIDERABLE MEASURE OF RELIEF COULD BE GIVEN JAPANESE THROUGH VEHICLE OF USG TAKING INITIATIVE TO SIT DOWN WITH SPECTRUM OF GOJ AND INDUSTRY OFFICIALS AND LISTEN TO THEIR VIEWS IN DETAIL AND RECEIVE A SHARPER DEFINITION OF THE QUESTIONS ON WHICH JAPAN WISHES ANSWERS ON THIS SUBJECT. OTSUKA APPARENTLY HAS

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ALLUDED TO NEED FOR SUCH TALKS (PARA 7, REFTEL A), AND

HAS REINFORCED BY OWN FEELINGS THAT SUCCESSIVE DELAYS IN SENDING U.S. EXPERT TEAM TO TOKYO FOR DISCUSSIONS HAS CAUSED JAPANESE TO BELIEVE THAT SOMETHING BAD IS IN THE WIND FOR THEM.

3. I NOTE FROM REFTTEL B THAT THE SAME EXPERT TEAM, OR ONE CLOSELY RESEMBLING IT, IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT TAIPEI EARLY IN JANUARY. I SUGGEST THAT YOU ROUTE THIS GROUP THROUGH TOKYO FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS OF TALKS WITH JAPANESE. WE IN THE EMBASSY COULD USE ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE NEW NUCLEAR POLICY, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, A VISIT OF THIS KIND COULD BE PRODUCTIVE POLITICALLY IN CALMING WHAT MAY BE UNJUSTIFIED FEARS WHILE OBTAINING CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION FROM THE JAPANESE WHICH CAN BE FACTORED INTO USG DECISION-MAKING AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME. WE HAD ALREADY MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE THE EMBASSY STAFF MEET WITH OKAWA, BUT WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO PROPOSE INSTEAD THAT SUCH A MEETING AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF A WASHINGTON EXPERT TEAM.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR REACTION TO PROPOSAL PARA 3 ABOVE.
HODGSON

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